

The President's Daily Brief

13 September 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 September 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

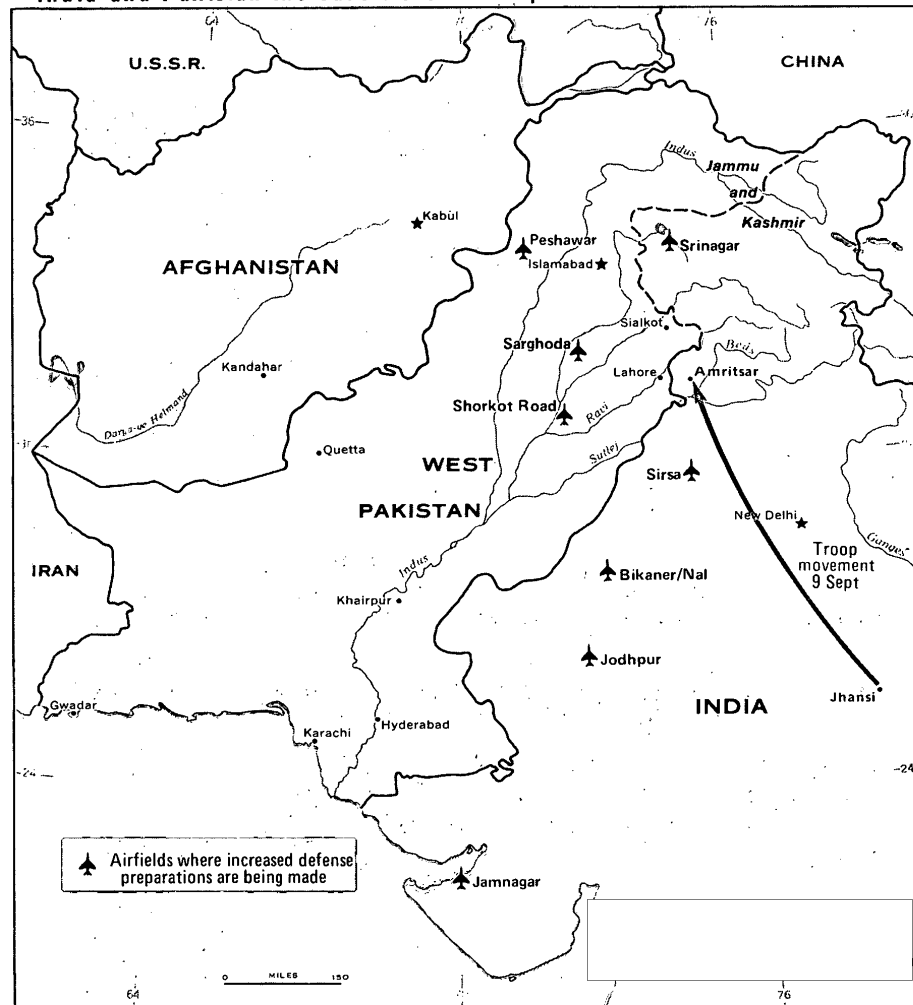
Some Indian armored units are reported to have moved closer to the West Pakistan border this month and satellite photography shows continued defense preparations at airfields in both countries. (Page 1)

South Vietnam's militant Buddhists apparently will remain on the sidelines politically in coming weeks. (Page 2)

The Burmese are still reluctant to agree to more than limited cooperation with international narcotics control efforts. (Page 3)

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India and Pakistan Increase Defense Preparations



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INDIA-PAKISTAN

On 9 September, units of the 1st Armored Division [] and an independent armored brigade began moving toward Amritsar near the India - West Pakistan border []

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The authorized strength of these units is about 23,000 men. This movement follows the shift earlier this summer of an armored and infantry brigade toward the border. The purpose of the latest move, [] is to signal the Pakistani Government and army that New Delhi is prepared to cope with any Pakistani incursions and to discourage any notion Islamabad may have that a pre-emptive strike against India could succeed.

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Satellite photography over the last month shows continuing defensive preparations at Pakistani airfields. Photography [] at Sarghoda Airfield shows that camouflage netting has been placed over 65 aircraft revetments and that some of the 130 aircraft normally stationed at the field have been dispersed to wooded areas around the field. As of mid-August, 29 occupied antiaircraft artillery gun emplacements were observed at Peshawar Airfield, and six AAA guns were seen in place at the newly activated airfield at Shorkot Road.

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India has been taking similar defensive measures at its airfields. Partial photographic coverage of Jodhpur Airfield [] showed at least seven occupied AAA positions, and new aircraft revetments are being constructed at four other airfields near the India - West Pakistan border.

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India, meanwhile, is continuing to take steps aimed at the recognition of Bangla Desh. On 9 September a Calcutta daily quoted Foreign Secretary Kaul as saying that India would recognize Bangla Desh "very soon." The Indians have also apparently played a guiding role in the formation of a multi-party Bangla Desh "National Liberation Front" which includes pro-Moscow Communists as well as moderate Bengali Awami League leaders, and serves to broaden the base of the Bengali freedom movement.

Despite these moves, the Indians are still proceeding slowly and they may be attempting to pressure Islamabad into negotiations with the Bengali leaders. In a New Delhi press conference on 10 September, Bangla Desh Foreign Secretary Alam reiterated his government's willingness to negotiate.

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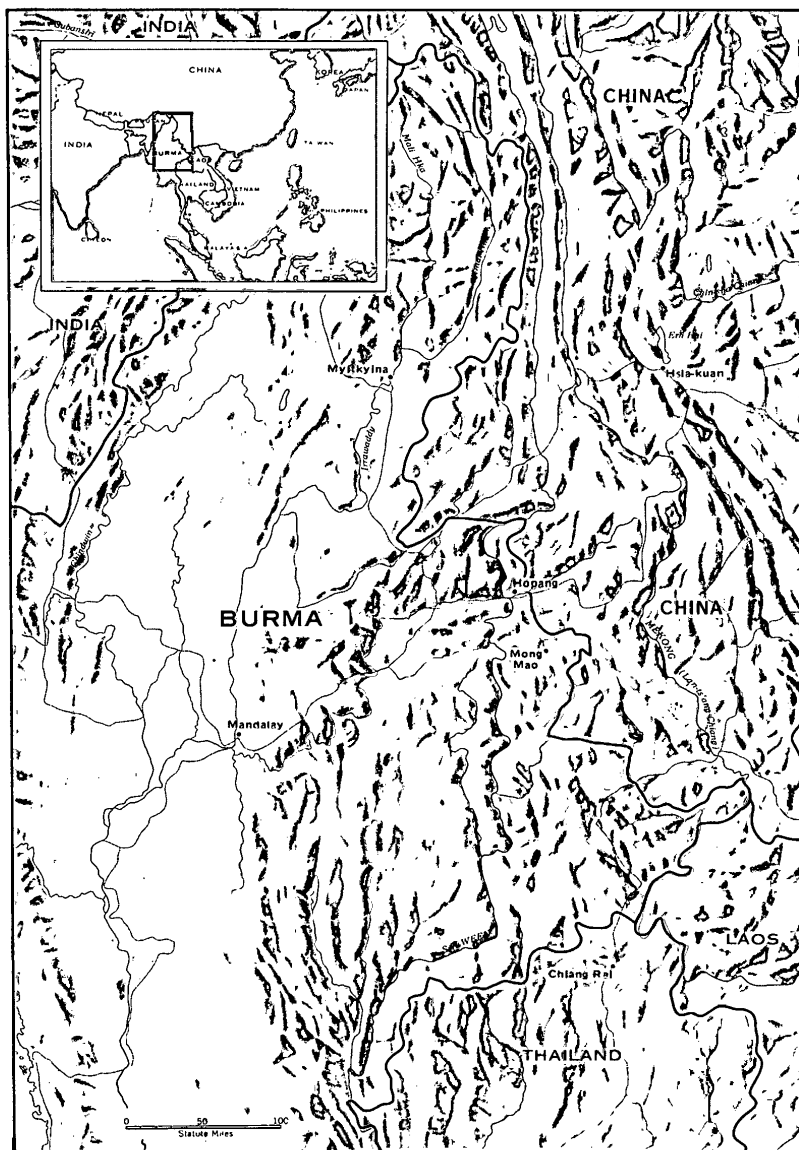
SOUTH VIETNAM

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the militant An Quang Buddhists, while pleased with their showing as the largest opposition bloc to emerge in the recent lower house elections, do not intend to use their strength against President Thieu. Much as they dislike Thieu, An Quang leaders believe the alternatives--including Vice President Ky, increased political turmoil, or a Communist take-over--are worse, and that they have no choice but to stay aloof from elements actively working for Thieu's downfall. One prominent An Quang senator says the sect is still interested in reaching some accommodation with Thieu.

Even if the An Quang hierarchy remains politically silent during the next few weeks, there may be some monks, particularly around Hue and Da Nang, who will actively oppose Thieu, and the sect's public attitude toward Thieu's referendum will be essentially negative.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**BURMA**

In recent meetings in Rangoon with US officials concerned with narcotics matters, Burmese officials indicated that they intend to attack the problem of domestic opium production with a minimum of outside assistance or interference. They expressed willingness to exchange information with the US on trafficking and refining, but rejected any participation in international control efforts and said that joint action with Thailand and Laos in the triborder area would present political problems, particularly with the Thai. The Burmese admitted that their access to the major opium-producing area east of the Salween River is limited by long-standing insurgency; they argued, however, that the area's proximity to China ruled out any internationally sponsored aerial survey.

Rangoon is obviously concerned over any activity that might arouse Chinese suspicions and mar the improved Sino-Burmese relations that have followed Ne Win's visit to Peking last month. Burma's relations with Thailand have been somewhat strained over the Thai-based insurgent activities of former Burmese prime minister U Nu.

The Burmese, with their long-standing policy of strict neutrality and isolation, remain wary of involvement in international narcotics control measures. Nevertheless, they were more forthcoming in these discussions than they usually are with foreigners, and their agreement to limited cooperation in the exchange of intelligence suggests that they may be amenable to future approaches.

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NOTES

USSR:

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Luna 18
was launched from Tyuratam on 2 September by an
SL-12 booster and placed in orbit around the moon
early last week.

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Luna 18 was the first Soviet unmanned
lunar landing attempt this year. Last year Luna 17
was used to place Lunokhod--the Soviet moon rover
vehicle--on the moon.

EGYPT-ISRAEL:

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FINLAND: President Kekkonen's proposal of 11
September to sign treaties to normalize relations
with both German states includes a veto power for
Bonn and is, therefore, unlikely to amount to much.
The Finns have, however, given a psychological and
propaganda boost to the East German quest for in-
ternational equality with West Germany. Helsinki
may plan more actions of this sort as part of its
campaign to win Soviet approval for a future com-
mercial agreement with the European Communities.

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